

### **Lifeguard On-Duty Lake Rules**

1. All non-swimming children 7 and under must be within arms reach of an adult at all times.
2. No running on the docks. Bikes must be walked on the dock.
3. No swimming under the docks.
4. No pushing, dunking, or holding others around the neck.
5. No dangerous play on ladders or docks.
6. Keep ladders clear.
7. No sitting or hanging on float lines.
8. No climbing or hanging on perimeter lines.
9. Non-swimmers must remain in water no more than chest depth.
10. Swimmers who enter the water inside the swimming area can not leave the controlled swimming area via the water. (Swim beyond the perimeter Float-line).
11. Dive in deep water only. Dive straight out. Spins and Flips and back dives are not allowed. Diving is allowed only in designated areas. Diving is NOT allowed anywhere at Waverly Beach or Juanita Beach. Diving at Houghton Beach may be suspended if water levels become to shallow.
12. Jumping from the dock must be done facing forward.
13. All floatation devices must stay in designated areas. No floatation devices on or within 5ft of the dock or pier. Rafts with oars must stay outside the swimming area.
14. No throwing of rocks, sand, sticks or other hard objects.
15. Lifeguard chairs are off limits to everyone except lifeguards.
16. Dogs on leash are permitted in the park. They are not allowed in the water.
17. Alcohol and drugs are not allowed in the park.
18. Open Water Swim Test:  
A swim test consisting of at: Houghton and Juanita 50 yards and at Waverly 25 yards of crawl stroke with side breathing, without stopping, without the use of goggles, is

required of all children under the age of 13 years before they proceed into water deeper than chest depth.

- Children must take a swim test each time they visit the area (each day)
- Children are allowed to take the swim test only one time per visit to the area. A second test may be allowed by guard discretion.
- Any individual, regardless of age can and could be “swim tested” at the discretion of the lifeguard.

19. Motorized watercraft must remain 100 yards away from the end of docks and swimming areas.

## **20. SWIMMING ALONG KIRKLAND SHORELINES**

Kirkland Municipal Code 14.20.010 indicates that swimming shall be confined:

- (1) To restricted swimming areas; or
- (2) To within a distance of fifty feet from the shore or a pier unless the swimmer is accompanied by a watercraft. (Ord. 800 § 20, 1960)

Beyond 50 feet from shore, the King County Code requires the swimmer to be accompanied by a boat which is within 25 feet of the swimmer.

To maintain a clearly defined swimming beach, lifeguards discourage swimming immediately outside the lifeguarded area. In the interest of public safety, there is need to maintain a defined perimeter buffer of 150 feet from the swimming areas on Lake Washington.

Kirkland Aquatic Service Beach Guards are instructed to educate “off shore swimmers” of the following:

Swimming within 50 feet of shore is consistent with the law.

Wading or swimming at a distance away from the swimming beach could have an impact on the operation of the lifeguarded area as any reasonable persons [lifeguard] attention could be drawn away from their area of coverage due to your presence in the water outside of the swimming area. For your safety, we strongly encourage you to remain within the designated swimming area. [Note: if the swimmer is beyond 25 feet of shore- approaching 50 feet and is not accompanied by a boat within 25 feet, guards should inform the swimmer that they will be contacting King County Marine Patrol.

The lifeguarded swimming beaches offer maintained bottom conditions, are free of aquatic weeds, and do not have boat traffic, all of which are possible concerns in other parts of the parks.

Lifeguards do not want to push open water swimmers out into boating traffic; they will allow swimmers to pass through the beach area if necessary, but will talk with them about the boundaries of the lifeguarded swimming beach and remind them about the 50 feet rule.